

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (amended) A method comprising:

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- a) providing an enclosure that is permeable to solutes;
 - b) treating solid support material with a hydroxide solution;
 - bc) introducing into said enclosure said solid support material and sealing said

enclosure; and

ed) introducing cells into said enclosure whereby said cells attach to said solid support material.

2. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said introducing comprises injecting said cells into said enclosure.

3. (previously amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said enclosure comprises mesh material and said injecting is performed through said mesh material.

4. (previously amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said enclosure comprises a septum and said injecting is performed through said septum.

5. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising freezing said enclosure containing said cells.

6. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising thawing said enclosure containing said cells to generate a thawed enclosure, and maintaining said thawed enclosure in a tissue culture medium.

7. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising testing the viability of said cells by staining said cells with a fluorescent dye.

8-9. (previously cancelled)

10. (amended) A method comprising:

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- a) providing an enclosure that is permeable to solutes;
 - b) treating solid support material with a hydroxide solution;
 - ~~b~~c) introducing into said enclosure said solid support material and;
 - ed) immersing said enclosure containing said solid support material into a culture of viable cells, whereby said viable cells migrate into said enclosure and attach to said solid support material.

11. (previously amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising removing said enclosure from said culture and freezing said enclosure.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously added) The method of Claim 10, wherein said solid support material comprises polyethylene and silica.

14. (previously added) The method of Claim 10, wherein said enclosure comprises mesh material.

15. (previously added) The method of Claim 14, wherein said mesh material comprises DELNET material.

16. (previously added) The method of Claim 1, wherein said enclosure comprises mesh material.

17. (previously added) The method of Claim 16, wherein said mesh material comprises DELNET material.

18. (previously added) The method of Claim 1, wherein said solid support material comprises polyethylene and silica.

19. (previously added) The method of Claim 1, wherein said sealing is accomplished with heat.

20. (previously added) The method of Claim 1, wherein said solid support material has a higher avidity for said cells than for said enclosure.

21. (cancelled)

22. (amended) The method of Claim 24 1, wherein said hydroxide solution comprises sodium hydroxide.
